

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
NOVEMBER 3, 2014  
TOWN HALL  
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: David A. Smith, Jr., Chairman  
Nadine A. Hawver, Clerk  
Rene C. Wood

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator  
Jill Hughes, Recording Clerk

Members of the public

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Selectman Wood moved to approve meeting minutes from the October 3, 2014 and October 6, 2014 meetings as amended, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-CDBG UPDATE:**

Patricia Mullins and Jacqueline Pacejo were present to give an update on the grant. They are launching the housing rehab program for Great Barrington and Sheffield which will include 15 housing rehabilitation construction projects for low to moderate income home owners in the towns, as well as engineering design for an infrastructure project in Housatonic Village in Great Barrington, and architectural design for removal of ADA barriers in the Sheffield Town Hall. The funds for a single rehab project is up to \$30,000. The types of repairs include: roofing, septic, heating, plumbing and energy efficiency items. All eligible applicants must be owner-occupied and whose property is located within the Town of Sheffield or Great Barrington, with preference given to those living in the targeted areas (Housatonic Village and the entire Town of Sheffield). Ms. Mullins further explained that the application is confidential and an Advisory Committee of residents from Sheffield and Great Barrington will be providing assistance. The staff will be holding office hours to meet with applicants starting on 11/17/14 from 1pm-2:30 pm at the Sheffield Senior Center, 11/19/14 from 3pm-7 pm at the Ramsdell Public Library in Housatonic and at the BRPC offices on 11/19/14 from 9am-12pm. Selectman Wood stated that applications would be available at the Sheffield Library, Senior Center and Town Hall as well as the BRPC website.

Derek Gentile from the Berkshire Eagle asked what the total grant award was and about the number of units for the towns. Ms. Mullins stated that \$803,100 is the total amount of the grant and that 15 is the total number of units for both towns.

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES-TOWN SELF EVALUATION:**

Laura Grunfeld from the Commission on Disabilities was present and asked for permission to work with Administrator LaBombard on the town self-evaluation. Ms. Grunfeld stated that the last update was done in February 2008. She would also like to have Chris Becker from the Massachusetts Office of Disabilities assist with evaluating all the public buildings if he is willing. Selectman Wood moved to proceed with the self-evaluation as discussed, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGRICULTURAL RESTRICTION – BARNUM STREET:**

Administrator LaBombard explained that Barbara Hopson from Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources was at Town Hall on October 30, 2014 to publicly read the legal notice that requested the 120 day notice period be changed to a 60 day notice period. Selectman Hawver read the notice of the proposed acquisition into the record. Selectman Wood moved to waive the 120 day notice period and make it a 60 day notice period, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENTS – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:**

Selectman Hawver moved to appoint David A. Smith Jr. to the Park and Recreation Committee for a three year term to expire June 30, 2017, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried 2-0. Chairman Smith abstained.

**APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – BOARD OF HEALTH:**

Administrator LaBombard explained that there is an open position on the Board of Health and the Board has received two letters of interest from David A. Smith, Jr. and Sarah Gulotta-Humes. Action on this appointment will take place at a future meeting.

**RESPONSE LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT HASTINGS:**

Selectman Wood explained that there was a meeting in September regarding the closure of one or more of the outlying schools. She read a draft letter written in response to Superintendent Hastings' letter of 10/14/14 stating that the Board still believed the voters of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District have the right to weigh in on whether the Monterey School should be closed. Selectman Hawver moved to sign and send the letter to Superintendent Hastings, seconded by Selectman Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

**SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:**

Selectman Hawver reminded voters that Election Day was tomorrow.

Selectman Hawver announced that tomorrow at 2pm there is a Mount Everett ladies Eagles soccer game at the school.

Selectman Hawver thanked the Sheffield Police and Fire Department and National Grid for their fast response and effort for taking care of the downed trees and power lines due to the storm yesterday.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:**

Administrator LaBombard stated that Bay State Roads classified Highway employee Ryan Shimmon as a Road Scholar because he took all the training that was required and congratulated Ryan on his accomplishment. Selectman Wood would like to send a letter of appreciation to Ryan and to Ed Lord for their accomplishment.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Resident Arthur Batacchi, Jr. asked the Board how they handle solar panel projects and what his options are. Chairman Smith stated that there is no bylaw that regulates solar. Selectman Wood stated that solar is a by-right use, but that the Building Inspector would issue the permit and he could speak to him. She also suggested he speak to his neighbor/owner of the property.

Selectman Wood moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Hughes  
Recording Clerk

Documents reviewed at this meeting:  
Agriculture Restriction-Barnum Street  
Letter of interest Park and Recreation Committee from David Smith, Jr.  
Letters of interest Board of Health from David Smith, Jr. and Sarah Gulotta-Humes  
Draft letter to Superintendent Hastings